



EPSILON GAMMA UPDATE

SPRING 2021

FOR ALUMNI, BY ALUMNI

Epsilon Gamma Launches New Alumni Relations Program

For nearly a century, Kappa Sigma has been a proud and respected member of the Louisiana Tech campus community. Since our founding in 1941, thousands of young men created friendships and developed leadership skills while being part of a brotherhood like no other. Epsilon Gamma continues to grow both in numbers and in stature. We now have more than 80 active undergraduate members and over 1,200 active alumni. I think most of us would agree that Epsilon Gamma has had a significant impact on our lives, both during and after our time at LA Tech.

Because we build such strong friendships as brothers, we all leave Kappa Sig with high hopes of keeping our fraternal bonds intact. Unfortunately, we quickly find that many new interests—careers, families, and civic activities—can create valid diversions. The day-to-day activities of life take over and, before you know it, we fall out of touch and begin to wonder what happened to our brothers. Without a solid alumni relations program in place, our members lack the means for staying connected to the Fraternity.

With this in mind, our new alumni relations program is designed to help our members stay in touch and cultivate awareness and involvement in Epsilon Gamma. Twice a year we will be mailing a newsletter focused on communication with alumni. Each issue will contain alumni news, spotlights on brothers from various

decades, information on upcoming events, and reports on Chapter activities. We want to give you an opportunity to reach out to brothers you haven't seen or spoken to for far too long.



Membership Fast Facts

80+ Undergraduates
1,200+ Alumni

In addition to the newsletter, we will send a biographical update requesting alumni to verify the contact information we have on file. Many of you have already received this mailing and we encourage you to return it to us as soon as you can. These biographical updates play a vital role in maintaining our records and enhance our ability to facilitate meaningful relationships within our alumni community. They also allow us to collect information for the alumni news section of the newsletter.

By bolstering our alumni relations programming, we hope to strengthen the fraternal bond that ties us all together. We want you to be not only proud of your Kappa Sigma experience, but also confident in saying that you *are* a Kappa Sig.

I welcome your feedback on the newsletter and encourage you to get involved. Our goal is to keep alumni informed about current projects and future plans, and to give all our Epsilon Gamma brothers an opportunity to reconnect with our good and great Fraternity.

A.E.K.D.B.,
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President, Housing Corporation Board
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We encourage you to reach out to any Epsilon Gamma brothers as we move forward in developing a successful long-term future for our Chapter.

SERVING COUNTRY AND BROTHERHOOD

George "Woodie" Jackson '54 Reflects on His Kappa Sigma and Military Experiences

While **George "Woodie" Jackson '54** was attending C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, one of his best friends, **Joe Townson '52**, who was a year older, ended up joining Epsilon Gamma Chapter. Once Woodie arrived at Louisiana Tech University, his old friend was there to introduce him to Kappa Sigma—and even ended up being his Big Brother. "During rush I visited Pi Kappa Alpha, Lambda Chi Alpha, Theta Xi, and Kappa Sigma," Woodie said. "I received a bid from all of them and accepted Kappa Sigma's in September of 1953."

Woodie was initiated on March 7, 1954, along with his 35 pledge brothers. One of his favorite memories from his time as an active member of Epsilon Gamma was participating in, and winning, the campus Stunt Night and Sing Week competitions. Preparing for these competitions was always a fun bonding experience for Woodie and his brothers. "Being a Kappa Sigma is a confidence builder," Woodie said. "There have been many times in my life where I have had to call on my ability to handle difficult situations."

"Being a Kappa Sigma is a confidence builder."

In the summer of 1956, Woodie was informed by a friend who worked for the city's draft board office that his number was coming up and he was to be drafted into the U.S. Army. He immediately went to his local Navy recruitment office and signed up for the Naval Cadet Program. "I was not selected for it," Woodie said. "After that, I began a six-year tour as an enlisted sailor." Following his graduation from Louisiana Tech in 1964, Woodie was accepted into the Navy

Flight Officer Program and was commissioned an ensign in 1964. He was awarded Navy Wings of Gold in November 1965, and his career took off from there. In 1968, Woodie served on the *USS Yorktown CVS-10* in the Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam, with fellow Kappa Sigma **George Bolge, Purdue**. "The teachings of Kappa Sigma and the brotherhood I enjoyed helped me through some difficult and troubling times along the way," Woodie said.

Woodie's passion for learning more about Kappa Sigma's history, values, and traditions has not wavered since graduating in 1964. He has attended six Grand Conclaves, five Leadership Conferences, the Grand Opening of National Headquarters, and the 125th Anniversary Conclave last year. He has served Epsilon Gamma as AAA and AA. Additionally, he held the position of District Grand Master for 10 years in North Louisiana where he oversaw six Kappa Sigma chapters. Woodie has visited Epsilon Gamma frequently over the years, attending the Founder's Day dinner nearly every year for the past five years and the Hawaiian Party every summer he gets the chance. He encourages his alumni brothers to reconnect with Epsilon Gamma, even if they haven't been involved for years. "You are missing out on some really good times by not keeping in touch in some way," Woodie said. "I always enjoy the opportunity to be part of anything having to do with Epsilon Gamma."

After 31 years of enlisted and commissioned service, Woodie retired as a Navy commander in 1995. Today, he lives in Shreveport, Louisiana. You can reach out to Woodie at cdrrret@shreve.net.

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER CELESTIAL

Travis L. DeFreese '51 entered Chapter Celestial on December 13. As a student at Louisiana Tech, he served as student body president, president of the sophomore and junior classes, and Chapter president of Epsilon Gamma. Travis led a lengthy engineering career at Southern Bell and AT&T; he also worked on special communications in the White House and worked with the Public Fire Service Communications in New York City. Travis's life was dedicated to public service. Serving others was his creed and no job was too insignificant for him to do cheerfully.

Rob Corley '84 entered Chapter Celestial on December 14. He grew up in Ringgold, La., and graduated as valedictorian of the Ringgold High School Class of 1982. After college, he graduated from the Louisiana State University Veterinarian School in 1991. After years of practicing in New Jersey and Texas, his roots brought him back to Louisiana permanently. He started Equine Track Associates in 1994. Dr. Corley's Racetrack Practice was extremely successful; he was known as a top-notch equine veterinarian. Rob was always smiling and fun to be around. He enjoyed the outdoors, hunting and deep-sea fishing. One of his passions was playing poker and he hated to lose. Rob loved people and they loved him. He will be missed by so many.

ALUMNI NEWS

B.D. Walker '57 is living retired life to the fullest and enjoying the grandkids (and now a great-grandson). He lives in Orlando, Fla., and enjoys vacation time in the U.S. and visiting other countries. Email: bdwalker31@gmail.com

Elliott Atkinson Jr. '62 served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era in Asia from 1968 to 1970. He has practiced law in Baton Rouge since 1973.

Phillip Jung '64 is retired but enrolled at the University of Alabama, pursuing a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. He is working on a six-stroke engine patent to increase engine efficiency. Phillip lives in Mobile, Ala. Email: pojung@comcast.net

Kenny Solley '68 retired from Entergy 10 years ago as a regional manager in Northern Louisiana. He lives in West Monroe, La., and enjoys duck hunting, bass and white perch fishing, and traveling on cruises with his wife and friends. Email: ksolley607@comcast.com

Mike Bacon '77 enjoyed attending the 2017 reunion in Lake Charles with 70-plus Epsilon Gamma alumni. He lives in Shreveport, La. Email: baconstackle@gmail.com

Kenneth Garcin '82 is a retired school administrator and enjoys playing golf. He lives in Pilot Point, Texas. Email: kggbeau@yahoo.com

Troy Schulman '86 lives in Atlanta, Ga., and is excited for more alumni gatherings and socials in the Southeast. Email: trschulman@comcast.net



Father Jim Colvin '87 and son Ben '19 in Teton Village, Wyoming.

Things that come to mind when our brothers think of Kappa Sigma

- Friendship, building lodge house, and annual dance. ~ **Charles Smitherman '45**
- Lifelong friends. ~ **Chuck Baragona '61**
- Sense of true brotherhood, discussions at meetings, and social activities. ~ **Elliott Atkinson Jr. '62**
- Initiation, dances at the Chapter House, playing bridge in the Chapter room. ~ **Phillip Jung '64**
- Good friends, good times, good memories. ~ **Bill Hunt '65**
- Fun, camaraderie, inclusion. ~ **George "Frog" Cockerham '66**
- Living with three other brothers, Initiations, and staying in touch today. ~ **Glenn Donaldson '66**
- Family, trust, and good times. ~ **Kenny Solley '68**
- Brotherhood, discipline, and having brothers who always had your back. ~ **Wright Massey '77**
- Fun and friends. ~ **Kenneth Garcin '82**
- Brotherhood, leadership (mentorships), and lifetime memories. ~ **Troy Schulman '86**
- Best decision of my life, parties at the house, and lifelong friends. ~ **Gerard Methvin '91**
- Brotherhood, good times, and people I can count on. ~ **Matthew "Hayes" Carter '02**
- Brotherhood, lifelong friends, and shenanigans. ~ **Jeffrey "Troubador" Carter '08**

Some of our brothers' favorite undergraduate memories

- Fellowship with brothers, the fraternity house on Mississippi St., initiation, and formal. ~ **William Peterson Jr. '45**
- Close friendships that have lasted a lifetime. ~ **Jim Dunn '54**
- My big brother, **Jim Dunn '54**, introduced me to my wife. Jim and I have stayed in touch ever since graduating. ~ **B.D. Walker '57**
- Always being broke and hungry and bonding with brothers. ~ **Chuck Baragona '61**
- Meeting my wife, Ann; working in the lab; my roommates; Westminster fellowship. ~ **Phillip Jung '64**
- Some of the guys are still my best friends today. We have stayed in touch and visited regularly for more than 50 years. ~ **Bill Hunt '65**
- Hawaiian parties, intramural sports, forever friendships, and the good life of Kappa Sigma. ~ **Glenn Donaldson '66**
- All the activities we did together. ~ **Kenny Solley '68**
- Four years of intense laughter and brotherhood. ~ **David "Hank" Cicerone '70**
- Hawaiian Spring Party and football season. ~ **Wright Massey '77**



Scott Phillips '21 and Brandon Couch '21.

EPSILON GAMMA UPDATE

KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY

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ATTENTION: This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your Kappa Sigma son is still attending Louisiana Tech University, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. Thank you.

REMEMBERING WHAT SHAPED US

How Epsilon Gamma Impacted Keith Moffit '03

Keith Moffit '03 had no intention of joining the Greek system at Louisiana Tech. However, after meeting **Hayes Carter '02** and **Jason Lyon '02** the summer before his freshman year, that soon changed. The three of them worked together at MedCamps of Louisiana, a summer camp for children with various medical conditions.

“I grew up in a very humble household in a struggling little town,” Keith said. College life, and especially the Kappa Sigma brothers he met through Hayes and Jason, introduced him to a diverse group of perspectives and backgrounds. “These men completely destroyed my perception that fraternities were only for the socially elite. They welcomed me, judging me only by my character. I knew the Epsilon Gamma Chapter of Kappa Sigma was the right place for me.”

Today, Keith is an owner and partner at Alexandria Emergency Hospital in Alexandria, Louisiana. The highlight of his professional life was serving our country as an emergency physician in the U.S. Army. “It was an honor

to provide emergency care for the soldiers that sacrifice for our country, for their families, and for our veterans.” In that role, Keith obtained the rank of major with numerous accolades and awards. His previous positions include a residency at the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center in Ft. Hood, Texas, and serving as a diplomate on the American Board of Emergency Medicine.

Keith’s undergraduate years taught him much about leadership and brotherhood, molding him into the man he is today. He soon found himself serving as pledge class president, followed by Grand Procurator and later pledge trainer. His strongest memory of the Chapter comes from a traumatic event resulting in multiple injuries for Keith, as well as the death of his mother. “This was the worst time of my life, but my brothers and specifically my big brother, Hayes Carter, supported me, pushing me forward. I cannot thank them enough.”

He has many fond memories with the Chapter as well, including pledge retreats, the annual East Texas Retreat, the Hawaiian Party, Conclave in Vegas, and more.



He is still in regular contact with several Epsilon Gamma brothers and looks forward to reconnecting with the active Chapter and other alumni in the near future.

“Don’t forget what shaped you,” Keith said of the brotherhood. “It is our responsibility to contribute and ensure the continued legacy of Kappa Sigma. The Star and Crescent shall not be worn by every man, but we must ensure its future and strength so that it may still be worn.”

Keith lives in Alexandria with his wife, son, and two daughters, and enjoys family time, traveling, hunting, and fishing. He can be reached at keith.moffit@me.com.